



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
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CHICAGO, IL 60604

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Woman Sentenced to 12 Months for Running Immigration Fraud Scheme

**Chicago, IL** – A Chicago woman was sentenced late Friday by U.S. District Court Judge Blanche Manning to 12 months in prison for her role in running an immigration fraud ring to obtain immigration benefits, including employment authorization and permanent residence status, for her illegal alien clients, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois and Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, announced today.

**Anayasin Patricia Cornejo Perez**, also known as “Patricia Perez” and “Patricia Neri,” age 44, of 2750 S. Central Park in Chicago, is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico. **Perez** operated “Centro de Servicios Profesionales,” an immigration consulting business located in Chicago at 4107 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, and subsequently at 3910 West Fullerton and 5600 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Cicero. Between 1991 and 1997, **Perez** assisted numerous illegal aliens from Mexico in the preparation and submission to the INS of fraudulent immigration applications to obtain legal permanent residence and work authorization benefits.

**Perez** was indicted on March 22, 2000, and on July 16, 2002, she pled guilty to one count of concealing material facts from the INS. **Perez** admitted charging her clients between \$1,500 and \$2,500 to prepare the false applications, which contained information regarding the client’s fictitious relationship with a U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse or parent to establish the client’s eligibility to legally remain in the U.S. Through her immigration consulting business, **Perez** was able to obtain legitimate documents pertaining to U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents without their consent. She then used these records to create the fictitious relationship for her illegal alien clients.

The fraudulent petitions included false marriage certificates showing that the illegal alien client had married a U.S. citizen in Mexico, as well as birth certificates falsely identifying legal permanent residents as the client’s parents. **Perez** also coached her clients to make false statements to INS interviewers, and offered to find women who were U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents to pose as the spouses of her clients.

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The government presented evidence at sentencing that **Perez** and her office had presented hundreds of false files to INS. An attorney, Constance Lara, testified that she had been approached by an estimated 200 to 300 people who told her that **Perez** had created false documents for them. Judge Manning found that because more than 100 false files were involved, **Perez** was subject to a more stringent sentence. After serving 12 months in prison **Perez** will also spend 3 years on supervised release.

“One of the enforcement priorities for the INS is to combat immigration fraud schemes and ensure that immigration benefits only go to those persons who have abided by our nation’s laws,” said INS District Director Brian R. Perryman.

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